IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following to page 1 after the title:

--Related Application

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/804,261 filed March 13, 2001.--

Please amend the paragraph of the specification beginning at page 24, line 4 as follows:

--A small block deinterleaver 138 deinterleaves the robust VSB data. The small block deinterleaver 138 has a relatively low delay time. This deinterleaving disperses possible burst errors in the robust VSB data at the output of the soft output twelve way 2/3 rate inner decoder 132. The normally ordered robust VSB data is bitwise decoded by an outer decoder 140 which also packs the robust VSB data into bytes. The ~~amp~~ map information telling the outer decoder 140 what decoding rate to use on what data is provided to the outer decoder 140 at an R_{MAP} Data input. Neither the deinterleaver 52 nor the interleaver 62 is needed in the robust VSB receiver 130 allowing for lower overall feedback delay to the phase tracker and/or equalizer. The outer decoded data can be used, for example, by an enhanced slice predictor 142 to

generate feedback to the phase tracker and/or equalizer.

If desired, the feedback may be gated, or the step size

of the equalizer gradient algorithm adjusted

proportionally to the reliability of the decoded data.--